TONY MENDOZA STATE ASSEMBLY, 56TH DISTRICT

My wife, Leticia, and I teach in the same elementary school. I teach fourth grade. Leticia teaches kindergarten. We have three wonderful children and a good life.

As a City Councilman, I am a leader in the fight against gangs in our community. Can you imagine how I felt when I had to tell Leticia that the gangs had threatened me? Thanks to good law enforcement, the gangster is now in prison. Naturally, Leticia wanted me to stop being so involved in the community. She wanted me to think about our own kids. But I told her my work was just as important for our children as it was for the rest of the community.

I became an active leader in Los Angeles' and California's Teachers Associations because the politicians have the wrong priorities. It's a shame that our Assemblyman Rudy Bermudez was the only Democrat to fight against a law that would have allowed child pornography to spread. I'll be Rudy's partner in the fight to protect children. He supports me.

I sued the Governor and the State Lottery Commission when they endangered school funding. And I am fighting President Bush's unequal school funding policies in Federal Court.

In the Assembly, I'll stand up for our families the way I stood up to the gangs, the Governor, the Lottery Commission and even the President of the United States! I am proud that our Deputy Sheriffs and Teachers support me. I would be honored to have your vote.

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